

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 15, 2008**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Frank Maher; Mary Walsh; William Munroe; and Robert Bollengier. Susan DeSack, Chairperson was absent. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar; and District Treasurer Kathleen LaCroix were present.**

**ORDER – Vice Chair Cicero called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Member Bollengier read the District Mission Statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – None**

**PRESENTATION – None**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda. He requested to place consent agenda item, B. 1. e. on hold until the next regular School**

**Committee meeting to clarify the correct FTE for this music position. Dr. Geismar referenced consent agenda item, B. 1. g. and explained that Ms. Ward's position for the 08/09 school year should read, .5 FTE Reading Recovery Teacher and .5 FTE Reading Specialist at Wawaloam School.**

**Member Bollengier referenced consent agenda item, B. 1. c. and expressed his opinion in view of the fact that that the applicant is not present at the meeting, that if the policy set by the School Committee is followed, this appointment would not be approved. He recommended to therefore vote to approve subject to the applicant being present at the next meeting. Vice Chair Cicero recommended pulling this item for further discussion.**

**Clerk Coutcher requested to pull consent agenda items, B. 1. c. and e. for discussion. Seconded by Member Maher. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**Clerk Coutcher moved to accept the consent agenda with the exception of items, B. 1. c. and e. Seconded by Member Maher.**

**District Treasurer Kathleen LaCroix answered Member Bollengier's clarifying questions regarding consent agenda items, C. Bills – Additional Bills.**

**Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of June 24, 2008**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**

**a. Samuel Ciotola as 1.0 FTE Behavior Specialist, Step 1, B, Council 94, Salary \$32,782: at Metcalf School, effective August 25, 2008; contingent upon receipt of non-disqualifying Criminal Background Check**

**b. Candace Marge as 1.0 FTE Special Education ALP Teacher at the Sr. High School, Step 5, Masters, Salary \$46,491; effective August 25, 2008, contingent upon receipt of a non-disqualifying Criminal Background Check**

**c. Pulled**

**d. Joshua Bednarczyk as 1.0 FTE Sr. High School Physical Education/Health Teacher, effective for the 2008/09 School Year**

**e. Pulled**

**f. Carin Corcoran as 1.0 FTE Grade-1 Teacher at Wawaloam School, effective for the 2008/09 School Year**

**g. Jayne Ward as .5 FTE Reading Recovery Teacher and .5 FTE Reading Specialist at Wawaloam School, effective for the 2008/09 School Year**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations – (ENCLOSED) – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)**

**a. Letter of Resignation from Dawn Fravala from her position as .5**

**FTE Recess Aide/Teacher Assistant at Metcalf School, effective July 11, 2008**

**4. Grievances**

**5. Recalls**

**6. Non-Renewals**

**7. Sabbaticals**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$94,865.57 and Additional Bills in the amount of \$297,211.35**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Correspondence – (1) June 26, 2008 Memorandum to School Committee from Superintendent Geismar Regarding Fine Arts Dept. Court Hearing; (2) July 1, 2008 Memorandum from Superintendent Geismar to School Committee Regarding Reimbursement of Student Activities Account; (3) July 9, 2008 Providence Journal Article Regarding JH SALT Team Visit Report; (4) July 2, 2008 Letter to Members of the SORICO Collaborative Council from Katherine Sipala, SORICO Executive Board Chair**

**Monthly Budget Projection 2007 – 2008 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the enclosed projection is based on May 30, 2008 figures. He expects the monthly projection that he will present at the first School Committee meeting in August will be the last time that figures will change and he anticipates ending with a positive number for the 2007/08 school year.**

**Monthly Status Reports- Superintendent –**

## **Curriculum**

### **Special Education**

**Maintenance – In response to Member Bollengier’s inquiries, Director of Administration Robert Ross said that Director of Maintenance William Plumley has been on vacation, therefore his Status Report was not submitted. Mr. Ross said that he will seek clarification from Mr. Plumley as to whether or not the blades on the lawn mower used to cut the high school athletic fields’ grass were raised.**

**Business – Clerk Coutcher referenced Mr. Ross’ Status Report item requesting the School Committee to direct the Building Committee to review the basement of the administration building which is slated for renovation and asked Mr. Ross for details. Mr. Ross said the capital projects slated for this summer will be completed by the end of August. The Building Committee is looking for direction from the School Committee for which of the remaining projects to address first. Mr. Ross listed risk management reasons that he is advocating that the finishing project of the administration basement, (which houses the Technology Center) be slated next on the list. Clerk Coutcher suggested having Building Committee members, along with architect Luis Torrado, bring to the next School Committee meeting a project list to review as a group to come up with a strategic plan. Vice Chair Cicero clarified that Administration will invite Luis Torrado**

to the next School Committee meeting to prioritize the project list. The Building Committee does not need to attend.

## **Technology**

**Monthly Subcommittee Report(s) – Transportation Subcommittee Report – Member Maher gave a brief synopsis of a recent transportation subcommittee meeting with First Student representative Scott Baton. He advised that initially Mr. Baton was apprehensive and said that implementing group bus stops would be difficult. After further discussion, it was decided the transportation subcommittee will need to bring parents' input to determine if consolidation is an option. Superintendent Geismar and Director of Administration Robert Ross advised that the district has exceeded fuel cost projections for the 08/09 school year. The district budgeted \$2.85 per gallon for fuel and presently fuel costs have easily exceeded that figure by \$1.00. The district is responsible for overages. Upon completion of Member Maher's reporting, consensus of the committee is to design a questionnaire for dissemination to parents explaining the benefits of consolidating some routes in order to obtain feedback. Member Maher said he will work with Member Bollengier to review potential routes, to design/send out a bulk mailing questionnaire, and to schedule public hearing(s) for question and answer sessions. Member Maher suggested rerouting will be difficult to achieve prior to the 08/09 begin date and he speculated an implementation of consolidation could be set to potentially begin**

following February or April 2009 school break, although the change may need to be delayed until the 09/10 school year. Member Maher expressed his opinion that it is worthwhile to do. Clerk Coutcher recommended sending a flyer to make parents aware of the possible routes prior to the question and answer meeting. Vice Chair Cicero agreed. Member Maher advised that rerouting may not affect all students and that SPED guidelines need to be considered as well. He said he will set up a meeting with Member Bollengier and Superintendent Geismar. This item will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for further discussion.

**NEW BUSINESS – Wawaloam Reading Review – Superintendent Geismar recognized Principal Marino and Reading Recovery teacher Deb Blake who are in attendance this evening to report on the state of reading at Wawaloam School. Dr. Geismar noted that Ms. Blake has taught Reading Recovery in the district for 8-years. Principal Marino and Ms. Blake gave a detailed overview of the Reading Recovery intervention program. Ms. Blake reported that Reading Recovery is a short term 12 – 20 week; 30 minutes every day, one-on-one instructional program that reaches the lowest 20% of students. The program is a great way to identify needs which helps to cut costs in Special Education referrals. Ms. Blake reported a 85 – 88 % success rate at the end of a session. Principal Marino and Ms. Blake answered members' clarifying questions. Principal Marino listed other reading support programs in place at Wawaloam School. Vice Chair Cicero requested that Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley**

**provide the committee with all PALS data results. Ms. Daley reported that she has been in contact with URI Professor Deeney who will offer information to guide the district in a Literacy Support self-study. Vice Chair Cicero also requested that Ms. Blake provide her with the data she asked for before. Ms. Blake will e-mail the data to the Superintendent and copy it to Ms. Daley. Once received, the Superintendent will forward the data to all School Committee members.**

**US History Textbook Adoption – Clerk Coutcher made a motion to approve the adoption of the US History Textbook. Seconded by Member Munroe. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption - #8701-Administering Student Medication - Adoption – Clerk Coutcher made a motion to adopt Policy #8701. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**Capital Project Update – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported the roofing project is moving along nicely and the contractor is doing a superb job. The Capital Bond Building Committee will meet on a weekly basis during July and August. Mr. Ross said that the most pressing issue at this time is making payment to the roofing contractor. The district is in receipt of a request for payment from Gorman Roofing, LA Torrado Architect has signed off that the work is done, and the chairperson has agreed the payment is to be made. The**



**bond will be sold on July 24, 2008 and payment will be distributed on August 7, 2008. Since the district does not have the payment in its possession right now, Mr. Ross recommended using the General Fund balance to make the required payment. Upon disbursement of the Bond on August 7, the district will submit a request to RIHEBC and funds will be paid back to the district. Mr. Ross advised that this is a common practice for school districts and municipalities making payments for summer work. School Committee approval is necessary to make this payment.**

**Clerk Coutcher made a motion to make a payment to Gorman Roofing Company for \$284,211 out of the General Fund of the School District and reimbursement when available on August 7, 2008 will be paid back to the school district. Seconded by Member Walsh.**

**In response to Member Bollengier's inquiry if such a payment from the General Fund will put the school district in a potential cash flow deficit, District Treasurer Kate LaCroix replied no. She said that presently the district has great cash flow and the benefits and salaries are covered for September 1, 2008. In response to Member Munroe's inquiry, Mr. Ross said that if the district delays payment to Gorman Roofing, contract language states that after 27 days they may stop work. Superintendent Geismar advised that the roofing contractor is doing a good job and the district does not want to jeopardize the process.**

**Voted 6 – 0 in favor.**

**Kindergarten Schedule – Principal Marino reported that due to updated enrollment figures, the 08/09 kindergarten schedule will not change after all. The 2008/09 Exeter kindergarten enrollment figures are higher than West Greenwich. Principal Marino advised however, that the issue may need to be revisited next school year since the district could perhaps end up with the same situation again.**

**Sodexo Presentation – (Continuance) – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that Sodexo does not yet have the program cost figures to present. Sodexo had hoped to take equipment from East Greenwich School District, however, East Greenwich has decided to buy the equipment outright. Mr. Ross said that the cost will be almost zero to the district. Member Bollengier said that Sodexo is pulling out of East Greenwich and will no longer be handling the food services there. Mr. Ross said that ARAMARK was recently awarded the state contract and East Greenwich has decided to go with them, but a tribute to Sodexo is that ARAMARK has to deliver the same type of program that Sodexo was delivering. He said that the district will look at why Sodexo left East Greenwich when the contract expires in June 2009.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – Vice Chair Cicero reverted to items pulled from the consent agenda by Clerk Coutcher – V. B. 1. c. and e.**

Vice Chair Cicero advised that consent agenda item, V. B. 1. e. Caroline Scheff as 1.0 FTE Music Teacher at Metcalf/Lineham/Wawaloam Schools, effective for the 2008/09 school year shall be pulled and tabled to the next regular school committee meeting of August 12, 2008.

With regard to consent item, V. B. 1. c. Lee Stetson as 1.0 FTE Spanish Teacher at the Sr. High School, Step 1, Masters, Salary \$39,994; effective August 25, 2008, contingent upon receipt of a non-disqualifying Criminal Background Check, Superintendent Geismar apologized that this candidate was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Dr. Geismar said that he still brought this appointment forward because he did not want to risk losing this applicant.

Clerk Coutcher made a motion to approve item V. B. 1. c. of the consent agenda, pending the applicant's appearance at the next School Committee meeting. Seconded by Member Bollengier. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Member Bollengier made a point of order: without prejudicing the already adopted School Committee policy going forward. Vice Chair Cicero agreed and added that this is an exception to the rule. In response to Member Munroe's inquiry, Clerk Coutcher said that the School Committee cannot disapprove of this appointment at the next meeting. The way that his motion is worded is that the applicant just

needs to show up at the next meeting and his appointment is approved. Vice Chair Cicero said that she agrees with Clerk Coutcher's explanation.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – Tuesday, August 12, 2008 – School Committee Meeting; Friday, August 22, 2008 – New Staff Training; Monday, August 25, 2008 – Teacher Orientation Day; Tuesday, August 26, 2008 – Professional Development Day; Tuesday, August 26, 2008 – School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 27, 2008 – First Day of School Students; The Capital Bond Building Committee Meetings will be held every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Administration Building beginning July 16, 2008 through August 27, 2008**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 AND RIGL 42-46-5 – None**

**ADJOURNMENT – Member Bollengier moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Member Walsh. Voted 6 - 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO  
CLERK**